

AUDIT REPORT OF  
RUSSELL COUNTY CLERK

Calendar Year 1998



**REPORT OF THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE  
RUSSELL COUNTY CLERK**

**Calendar Year 1998**

**EDWARD B. HATCHETT, JR.  
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
[WWW.KYAUDITOR.NET](http://WWW.KYAUDITOR.NET)**

**144 CAPITOL ANNEX  
FRANKFORT, KY 40601  
TELE. (502) 564-5841  
FAX (502) 564-2912**



Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.  
Auditor of Public Accounts

To the People of Kentucky

Honorable Paul E. Patton, Governor

John P. McCarty, Secretary

Finance and Administration Cabinet

Mike Haydon, Secretary, Revenue Cabinet

Honorable Charles M. Smith, Russell County Judge/Executive

Honorable Brigitte Popplewell, Russell County Clerk

Members of the Russell County Fiscal Court

The enclosed report prepared by Donna Bouvier, Certified Public Accountant, presents the statement of receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the County Clerk of Russell County, Kentucky, as of December 31, 1998.

We engaged Donna Bouvier, CPA, to perform the financial audit of this statement. We worked closely with the firm during our report review process; the resulting audit comports with our reporting format. As part of the audit, Donna Bouvier, CPA, evaluated the Russell County Clerk's internal controls and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.

Auditor of Public Accounts

Enclosure

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To the People of Kentucky  
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### Independent Auditor's Report

I have audited the accompanying statement of receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the County Clerk of Russell County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 1998. This financial statement is the responsibility of the County Clerk. My responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for County Fee Officials issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

As described in Note 1, the County Clerk is required to prepare the financial statement on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the cash basis and laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. This cash basis system does not require the maintenance of a general fixed asset group or general long-term debt group of accounts. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statement is not intended to present financial position and results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

To the People of Kentucky  
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Members of the Russell County Fiscal Court  
(Continued)

In my opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 1998, in conformity with the basis of accounting described above.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, I have also issued a report dated December 9, 1999, on my consideration of the County Clerk's compliance with certain laws and regulations and internal control over financial reporting.

Donna Bouvier  
Certified Public Accountant

December 9, 1999

RUSSELL COUNTY  
BRIGETTE POPPLEWELL, COUNTY CLERK  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES

Calendar Year 1998

<u>Receipts</u>				
State Fees for Services		\$ 8,105		
Fiscal Court		5,205		
Licenses and Taxes:				
Motor Vehicle-				
Licenses and Transfers	\$ 408,067			
Usage Tax	912,976			
Tangible Personal Property Tax	989,199			
Licenses-				
Marriage	5,934			
Deed Transfer Tax	26,198			
Delinquent Tax	79,436	2,421,810		
Fees Collected for Services:				
Recordings-				
Deeds, Easements and Contracts	\$ 16,284			
Real Estate Mortgages	22,121			
Chattel Mortgages and Financing Statements	60,085			
Powers of Attorney	1,590			
Miscellaneous Recordings	17,630			
Charges for Other Services-				
Candidate Filing Fees	2,450			
Title Applications, Copywork, and Mail-In Fees	6,271	126,431		
Other:				
Miscellaneous		500		
Interest Earned		3,891		
Gross Receipts Carried Forward				<u>\$2,565,942</u>



RUSSELL COUNTY  
 BRIGETTE POPPLEWELL, COUNTY CLERK  
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES  
 Calendar Year 1998  
 (Continued)

Gross Receipts Brought Forward				\$ 2,565,942
<u>Disbursements</u>				
Payments to State:				
Motor Vehicle-				
Licenses and Transfers	\$ 305,378			
Usage Tax	880,911			
Tangible Personal Property Tax	344,218			
Licenses-				
Delinquent Tax	10,189			
Legal Process Tax	19,444			
Candidate Filing Fees	1,170	\$ 1,561,310		
Payments to Fiscal Court:				
Tangible Personal Property Tax	\$ 63,626			
Delinquent Tax	5,815			
Deed Transfer Tax	24,888	94,329		
Payments to Other Districts:				
Tangible Personal Property Tax	\$ 540,805			
Delinquent Tax	38,012	578,817		
Payments to Sheriff		3,422		
Payments to County Attorney		15,411		
Operating Disbursements:				
Personnel Services-				
Deputies Salaries		99,478		
Employee Benefits-				
Employer's Paid Health Insurance		12,273		
Contracted Services-				
Advertising	\$ 1,087			
Printing and Binding	1,579	2,666		

RUSSELL COUNTY  
 BRIGETTE POPPLEWELL, COUNTY CLERK  
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES  
 Calendar Year 1998  
 (Continued)

Operating Disbursements: (Continued)				
Supplies and Materials-				
Office Supplies	\$ 22,708			
Maintenance	7,578	\$ 30,286		
Other Charges-				
Conventions and Travel	\$ 2,084			
Dues	450			
Postage	5,553			
Refunds	4,348			
Miscellaneous	1,421	13,856		
Total Disbursements				\$ 2,411,848
Net Receipts				\$ 154,094
Less: Statutory Maximum				48,726
Excess Fees				\$ 105,368
Less: Expense Allowance				3,600
Excess Fees Due County for Calendar Year 1998				\$ 101,768
Payments to County Treasurer-January 11, 1999		\$ 95,000		
March 5, 1999		6,768		101,768
Balance Due County at Completion of Audit				\$ -

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statement.

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

RUSSELL COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 1998

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Fund Accounting

A fee official uses a fund to report on the results of operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fee official uses a fund for fees to account for activities for which the government desires periodic determination of the excess of receipts over disbursements to facilitate management control, accountability, and compliance with laws.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a cash basis of accounting pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 68.210 as recommended by the State Local Finance Officer. Revenues and related assets are generally recognized when received rather than when earned. Certain expenses are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred, including capital asset purchases. Certain other expenses are recognized when a revenue and the related asset can be associated with a corresponding liability due another governmental entity.

The measurement focus of a fee official is upon excess fees. Remittance of excess fees is due to the County Treasurer in the subsequent year.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the County Clerk's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

RUSSELL COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
December 31, 1998  
(Continued)

NOTE 2: EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The county officials and employees have elected to participate in the County Employee Retirement System (CERS) pursuant to KRS 78.530 administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems. This is a multiple employer public retirement system which covers all eligible full-time employees. Benefit contributions and provisions are established by statute. Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute 5.0 percent of their salary to the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 8.65 percent.

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65.

Historical trend information pertaining to CERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is present in the Kentucky Retirement System's annual financial report which is a matter of public record.

NOTE 3: DEPOSITS

The County Clerk maintains deposits with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). According to law, the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution. The County Clerk met the requirements stated above, and as of December 31, 1998, deposits were fully insured or collateralized at a 100% level with collateral held by the county official's agent in the county official's name.

RUSSELL COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
December 31, 1998  
(Continued)

NOTE 4: GRANT

The County Clerk maintains a grant account which originated from a local records microfilming grant from the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. The beginning balance of this account on January 1, 1998, was \$5,279, interest was received in the amount of \$121. Funds totaling \$5,400 were fully expended as of December 31, 1998.

NOTE 8: LEASES

Commitments to the following lease agreements as of December 31, 1998 are:

<u>Item Purchased</u>	<u>Monthly Payment</u>	<u>Term of Agreement</u>	<u>Ending Date</u>	<u>Principal Balance 12/31/1998</u>
Xerox Copier	\$ 274	60 Months	06/99	\$ 1,656
Xerox Copier	\$ 68	36 Months	01/00	\$ 816

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE  
AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL  
REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Honorable Charles M. Smith, County Judge/Executive  
Honorable Brigitte Popplewell, County Clerk  
Members of the Russell County Fiscal Court

Report On Compliance And On Internal Control  
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial  
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

I have audited the Russell County Clerk as of December 31, 1998, and have issued my report thereon dated December 9, 1999. I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Russell County Clerk's financial statement as of December 31, 1998, is free of material misstatement, I performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of my audit and, accordingly, I do not express such an opinion. The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing my audit, I considered the Russell County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine my auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the financial statement and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. My consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one of more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. I noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that I consider to be material weaknesses.



Charles M. Smith, County Judge/Executive  
Honorable Brigitte Popplewell, Russell County Clerk  
Members of the Russell County Fiscal Court  
Report On Compliance And On Internal Control  
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial  
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards  
(Continued)

This report is intended for the information of management. However, this report, upon release by the Auditor of Public Accounts, is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Donna Bouvier  
Certified Public Accountant

December 9, 1999